a1 cont

poxB'3'-2: 5' - GCCAGTTCGATCACTTCATCAC - 3' (SEQ ID No. 8)

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 15, line 23 with the following:

For replacement of the chromosomal poxB gene with the plasmid-coded deletion construct, MG442 is transformed with the plasmid pMAK705ΔpoxB, The gene replacement is carried out by the selection method described by Hamilton et al. (1989) Journal of Bacteriology 174, 4617 - 4622) and is verified by standard PCR methods (Innis et al. (1990) PCR Protocols. A Guide to Methods and Applications, Academic Press) with the following oligonucleotide primers:

a2

poxB'5'-1: 5' - CTGAACGGTCTTAGTGACAG - 3' (SEQ ID No. 5)

poxB'3'-2: 5' - GCCAGTTCGATCACTTCATCAC -3' (SEQ ID No. 8)

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 17, line 6 with the following:

The glutamate dehydrogenase gene from Escherichia coli K12 is amplified using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and synthetic oligonucleotides. Starting from the nucleotide sequence for the gdhA gene in E. coli K12 MG1655 (gene library: Accession No. AE000270 and No. AE000271), PCR primers are synthesized (MWG Biotech, Ebersberg, Germany):

a3

Gdh1: 5' - TGAACACTTCTGGCGGTACG - 3' (SEQ ID No. 9)

Gdh2: 5' - CCTCGGCGAAGCTAATATGG - 3' (SEQ ID No. 10)

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 19, line 5 with the following:

The rhtC gene from *Escherichia coli* K12 is amplified using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and synthetic oligonucleotides. Starting from the nucleotide sequence for the rhtC gene in *E. coli* K12 MG1655 (gene library: Accession No. AE000458, Zakataeva et al. (FEBS Letters 452, 228-232 (1999)), PCR primers are synthesized (MWG Biotech, Ebersberg, Germany):

a4

RhtC1: 5' - CTGTTAGCATCGGCGAGGCA - 3' (SEQ ID No. 11)

RhtC2: 5' - GCATGTTGATGGCGATGACG - 3' (SEQ ID No. 12)

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 21, line 14 with the following:

For replacement of the chromosomal poxB gene with the plasmid-coded deletion construct, TOC21R is transformed with the plasmid pMAK705ΔpoxB (Example 2). The gene replacement is carried out by the selection method described by Hamilton et al. (1989) Journal of Bacteriology 174, 4617 - 4622) and is verified by standard PCR methods (Innis et al. (1990) PCR Protocols. A Guide to Methods and Applications, Academic Press) with the following oligonucleotide primers:

a5

poxB'5'-1: 5' - CTGAACGGTCTTAGTGACAG - 3' (SEQ ID No. 5)

poxB'3'-2: 5' - GCCAGTTCGATCACTTCATCAC -3' (SEQ ID No. 8)

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 23, line 12 with the following:

For replacement of the chromosomal poxB gene with the plasmid-coded deletion construct, TOC21R is transformed with the plasmid pMAK705ΔpoxB (Example 2). The gene replacement is carried out by the selection method described by Hamilton et al. (1989) Journal of Bacteriology 174, 4617 - 4622) and is verified by standard PCR methods (Innis et al. (1990) PCR Protocols. A Guide to Methods and Applications, Academic Press) with the following oligonucleotide primers:

a6

poxB'5'-1: 5' - CTGAACGGTCTTAGTGACAG - 3' (SEQ ID No. 5)

poxB'3'-2: 5' - GCCAGTTCGATCACTTCATCAC -3' (SEQ ID No. 8)

Please delete the original Sequence Listing at page 27-36.

Page 41 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please insert the attached Sequence Listing.